

**Claims**

1           1.     An automated system to provide comprehensive meeting  
2     planning services for multiple clients via a communications network, the  
3     system comprising:

4                 a client interface for mediating communications via the communication  
5     network between the client and the automated system;

6                 a meeting management module for collecting and analyzing data  
7     pertinent to a prospective meeting; and

8                 a database for storing the collected data.

1           2.     The automated system of claim 1, wherein the meeting  
2     management module further comprises one or more servers.

1           3.     The automated system of claim 1, wherein the communications  
2     network further comprises the Internet.

1           4.     The automated system of claim 1, further comprising a research  
2     module for generation of industry and meeting information related to meeting  
3     planning.

1           5.     The automated system of claim 1, further comprising a reporting  
2     module for report generation related to the prospective meeting.

1           6.     The automated system of claim 1, further comprising an event  
2     module for managing events related to the prospective meeting.

1           7.     The automated system of claim 1, further comprising an  
2     attendee module for managing logistics related to one or more meeting  
3     attendees.

1           8.     The automated system of claim 1, further comprising a  
2     marketplace module to manage interactions between a client and a supplier.

1           9.     The automated system of claim 1, further comprising a  
2     community module to facilitate communications between clients via the  
3     communications network.

1           10.    The automated system of claim 1, further comprising a  
2     customization module to facilitate client preference profiles.

1           11.    The automated system of claim 1, further comprising a service  
2     module to provide real-time communication via the communications network  
3     between the client and the meeting planning services provider.

1           12.    An automated system for comprehensive meeting planning via  
2     the Internet for multiple clients, the automated system comprising:

3 a web server for mediating communications between the client and the  
4 automated system;

5 a request generator for collecting data pertinent to a prospective  
6 meeting;

7 a database for storing the collected data; and

8 at least one application server associated with the web server and the  
9 database, the application server having:

10 a meeting management module for analyzing the collected data and  
11 executing arrangements for the prospective meeting based on the analysis of  
12 the collected data;

13 a research module for generation of industry and meeting information  
14 related to meeting planning;

15 a reporting module for report generation related to the prospective  
16 meeting;

17 an event module for managing events related to the prospective  
18 meeting;

19 an attendee module for managing logistics related to one or more  
20 meeting attendees;

21 a marketplace module to manage interactions between a client and a  
22 supplier;

23 a community module to facilitate communications between clients via  
24 the communications network;

25 a customization module to facilitate client preference profiles; and

26 a service module to provide real-time communication via the  
27 communications network between the client and the meeting planning services  
28 provider.

1 13. The automated system of claim 12, further comprising a secure  
2 login system and secure client-specific accounts.

1 14. An automated method for providing comprehensive meeting  
2 planning and management services for multiple clients via a communications  
3 network, the method comprising the steps of:

4 providing a client interface for mediating communications via the  
5 communication network between the client and a service provider;

6 collecting data pertinent to a prospective meeting;

7 storing the collected data in a repository;

8 analyzing the data to determine client preferences and meeting criteria;

9 and

10 scheduling the meeting according to the client preferences and the  
11 meeting criteria.

1 15. The automated method of claim 14, further comprising the step  
2 of establishing a client-specific account for each client.

1           16.    The automated method of claim 14, further comprising the step  
2           of conducting online research based on client-supplied criteria and producing  
3           the results of the research.

1           17.    The automated method of claim 14, further comprising the step  
2           of generating multiple reports.

1           18.    The automated method of claim 14, further comprising the step  
2           of providing a project management tool to facilitate management of details  
3           related to one or more of the following group: travel arrangements, events, and  
4           activities.

1           19.    The automated method of claim 14, further comprising the step  
2           of providing an interactive online communication tool to facilitate  
3           communications between clients.

1           20.    The automated method of claim 14, further comprising the step  
2           of providing a transaction forum for the clients and suppliers.